

**Hawaii Department of Agriculture - Pesticides Branch  
1st Quarter Report; EPA Region IX  
October - December 2012**

**ADMINISTRATIVE:**

**Personnel**

- During the month of September, a second round of interviews was held with applicants for the Chemist III position in the Chemical Analysis Laboratory (CAL) section. Mr. Sean Knutson was offered and accepted the position and started work in November.
- A short list of two applicants for the Environmental Health Specialist position in the Oahu Enforcement section was deferred for a longer list of candidates.
- Effective November 6, 2012, Environmental Health Specialist Marian Chun of the Pesticide Registration and Licensing section was granted early retirement due to a medical condition.

**Training**

Program staff attended the following training:

Date:	Conference:	Description:	Attendee(s):
October 10 – 12, 2012	ALSTAR Meeting and NPRIS Training and Conference Nevada, Las Vegas	Continue education about ALSTAR & NSPIRS services, communicate with other users, learn about updates to software, and maintain relationships with other states/companies.	Christina Zimmerman, EHS, Registration/Licensing
December 10 – 11, 2012	SFIREG Meeting Arlington, Virginia	Present issues of concern identified by SLAs from Region 9. Report back to SLAs in Region 9, territories and tribes issues from other regions as well as updates on specific subjects presented by the full SFIREG committee.	Thomas Matsuda, Program Manager

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:**

**Registration/Licensing**

**Licensing**

A total of 1,065 licenses were processed, with fees collected totaling \$351,010. Of these licenses, 122 were for new products and 943 were renewals.

Special Local Needs (Section 24c): None this quarter.

Section 18 Emergency Exemption: None processed.

Experimental Use Permits (EUP): None issued.

**Waimea Canyon Air Quality Meetings**

Background information: A study to monitor the air quality on the Island of Kauai was started as a result of numerous odor complaints from Waimea Canyon School teachers back in 2004. The Hawaii

Department of Agriculture funded \$100,000 towards parts of the study related to pesticides. The Kauai County provided \$50,000 to characterize odors from a plant known as stinkweed, *Cleome gynandra*.

Principal Investigator Dr. Qing Li, completed his final draft report in December. In January or February 2013, Dr. Li will present the results of his study to members of the Kauai County Council, Mayor of Kauai and the Waimea/Kekaha community.

#### **Chemical Analysis Laboratory (CAL)**

A total of 15 tests were run for 9 samples pertaining to 4 enforcement cases this quarter. All of these samples were finished by the Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometer (GC/MS).

In mid-November, the department received two (2) refurbished vacuum pumps from Agilent Inc. Both had problems and were returned. Another two replacement pumps were received in December with one still having to be returned. Currently with a borrowed pump from the State Department of Health being borrowed, the LC/MS is currently running smoothly.

The 2012 December batch of EPA check samples were done and the results submitted for review. Due to the LC/MS pump issue earlier in the year, the EPA check samples for April were not run.

#### **Work plans:**

##### **Applicator Certification and Training Work plan:**

During the 1st quarter, a total of 19 statewide examination sessions were held. One hundred-seventeen (117) examinees were tested in Private applicator or Commercial applicator categories. Out of these examinations, 38 individuals became newly certified applicators and another 62 individuals were re-certified in their appropriate work profession categories.

Twenty-one (21) certified applicators collectively earned 69.5 recertification credits by taking quizzes. Thirty-one (31) CET training classes were held and attended by 389 certified applicators. These attendees collectively earned 293 recertification credits.

##### **Development of WPS Handler and Worker narrated slideshow.**

In Hawaii, due to the different ethnic backgrounds of local farmers, a determination was made to create visual WPS outreach materials in the native language of these farmers. The Education staff reviewed available WPS training tapes, WPS Worker flip chart and Handler manual and settled on creating a slide show, with voice over by translators from Pacific Gateway Foundation.

A studio condenser microphone was purchased and utilizing Windows Movie Maker software in which to do "voice over" edits some experiments and tests were conducted. A written script in English is being prepared and the next phase will be to have translators convert the English script into Ilocano, Laotian, Mandarin, Cantonese and Tagalog.

Upon having a master translated version for each desired language, we will determine the best method of distribution i.e. Web based, hard copy, etc. We will also be developing additional outreach materials such as crop grouping, label comprehension, and IPM concepts.

##### **Endangered Species Protection Work plan:**

During the annual pesticides training in November, Pesticides Education staff Daisuke Inoyama provided training on the Endangered Species Protection program to pesticide staff.

**Enforcement Work plan:**

(Statistical numbers will be reported by Avis in the 5700-33H Form.)

Three (3) informal disposition meetings were held with settlements being reached in two of these cases. One case against respondent Fong Sourivong was dismissed due to a technicality of multiple cosigners on the farm lease versus the assumption of the lease signed by a single individual.

Other cases included respondents from ABC Corporation and Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (Kauai).

Complaints that were followed up concerned:

Oahu:

- No tolerance for carbaryl on green onions. Follow up inspection with green onion grower conducted.
- Application of Enoz mothballs to exterior of landscaped areas.
- Odor complaint concerning application of Ortho Malathion 50 Plus Insect Spray to apartment surroundings.

Maui/Molokai:

- Odor complaint at Molokai School. School's teaching aide had Malathion container spill in back of pickup truck that was parked on school campus. Truck was moved from school grounds and Dept. of Health Hazard Evaluation Emergency Response Division notified.
- Odor complaint from Hana resident regarding government agency and roadside spray drift. Complainant visited physician. Vehicle window swab samples taken. Awaiting test results.
- Farmer complained about new growth dying on mango trees. Trees adjacent to Monsanto Co.

Kauai:

- Complaint against roadside application of pesticides by County of Kauai – Department of Public Works/Kapaa Baseyard near river. Suspected applicator interviewed, unable to determine if applications were near river or spray drift entered the river.
- Complaint of dead toads at Kaumakani Park. Toads buried 10 days prior to inspection. Ongoing investigation.
- Follow up to an anonymous letter of pesticide misuse and WPS violations at a small nursery in Kapaa. Suspected violations found concerned no posting at CNS, no WPS training records kept, no training of applicators prior to use of pesticides, no training of workers within first 5 days.

Hawaii Island:

- Resident reported and unknown white powder drifted into her residence, making her family sick. Swab samples were taken from interior of residence. Lab analysis pending.

Other:

- BASF Plant Science, LP self –reported that Admire Pro (EPA Reg. No. 264-487) as misused. Fields sprayed with Admire Pro were sprayed sooner than the 7 day interval set between applications. The 24(c) SLN label reads, "Minimum interval between foliar applications: 7 days."
- Compliance verification inspections being conducted as part of enforcement activities.

**Worker Safety Program Work plan:**

Three (3) Worker Protection Standard training sessions were provided to these farms or groups; Big Island Produce, Ueshima Coffee Company, Katsu Kobashigawa farm and the National Tropical Botanical

Garden (Kauai). A total of 28 individuals participated in the WPS agricultural worker or handler trainings.

Training on pesticide safety and Little Fire Ant was provided to these farms or groups; Holualoa farmers, Pukalani Country Club (Maui), Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii, Hawaii Department of Transportation Airports Division and L & R Farm (Molokai).

**Water Quality Protection Program Work plan:**

There was one (1) new active ingredient either having been reviewed or still under review. Preliminary review of the 1 active was completed and determined “does not require full groundwater review”.

Isopropyl myristate was reviewed as a new active ingredient. This chemical is used in pet collars for control of ticks on dogs and cats. This was found to not require full groundwater review and acceptable for general use licensing because of the immobility of the active and its high biodegradation, as well as the use pattern.

**IPM In Schools**

The Pesticide Branch education section in partnership with the Hawaii Department of Education (DOE) facilities/maintenance conducted IPM training with the Ala Wai Elementary School’s Principal, Vice Principal, and Head Custodian. Ala Wai Elementary School has been designated by the DOE to be an IPM pilot school project. Sometime next quarter, the facilities/maintenance will be hosting pest control vendors for a walk around at the school, prior to submittal of bids...

Pesticide Education staff also met with DOE Assistant Superintendent Mr. Ray L’Heureaux to discuss IPM in public schools and to provide pesticide safety training to cafeteria and custodial staff.

A presentation was also made to Department of Defense personnel on IPM communication.